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Message Text

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61
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 /074 W
---------- 069836
R 232046Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7264
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6265

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO, AR
SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 4940 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 188684 (NOTAL),
(C) BUENOS AIRES 5525 (NOTAL), (D) STATE 211756 (NOTAL),
(E) STATE 224244, (F) STATE 232308

1. AS REPORTED REFTELS (A) AND (C), GOA HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO
DISCUSS UNESCO SITUATION WITH US.

2. WHILE CROSS HAS LEFT S&T SECRETARIAT, UNDER SECRETARY FOR
S&T DR. CESAR VAZQUEZ TOLD EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR HE WOULD BE
GOING TO NAIROBI AND HAS BECOME MOST INTERESTED IN UNESCO
AFFAIRS. (HE IS INVOLVED IN DRAFTING STATEMENT TO BE GIVEN
BY HEAD OF ARGENTINE DEL, EXPECTED TO BE CULTURE AND EDUCA-
TION MINISTER BRUERA.) VAZQUEZ SAID HE HAD BEEN READING
UNESCO REPORTS (PRESUMABLY OF 18TH GC) AND WAS APPALLED AT
INSTRUSION OF POLITICIZED NIEO ISSUES INTO SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS.
HE TERMED 19TH GC AS CRUCIAL AND STATED THAT BRUERA PLANNED TO
MAKE VERY FORTHRIGHT, STRONG STATEMENT AIMED TO HELP GET UNESCO
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BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK. HE SAID CHILE AND URUGUAY FELT SIMI-

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LARLY, BUT VENEZUELA DID NOT RPT NOT. OTHER MEMBERS ARG DEL EXPECTED TO BE UNESCO AMB MASSUH AND CROSS'S REPLACEMENT AS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISER AT S&T SECRETARIAT (OLGUIN). VAZQUEZ WAS AFRAID FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD ATTEMPT TO TEMPER THE STRONG POSITION WHICH HE (AND BRUERA PRESUMABLY) HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT. (COMMENT: VAZQUEZ HAS SPENT SOME TIME IN U.S., SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, AND SEEMS MOST FRIENDLY TOWARD U.S. AND CONCERNED ABOUT UNESCO. WE SUGGEST HE COULD BE POTENTIALLY VALUABLE CONTACT FOR US DEL AT NAIROBI.)

3. S&T COUNSELOR SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIR-GEN (AND SCIENCE COORDINATING COMMISSION PRESIDENT) FIGUERERO AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AND REQUESTED GOA SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S IN-CLUSION IN EUROPEAN REGION, USING POINTS (A) THRU (C) OF PARA 5, REFTEL (V).

4. FIGUERERO READ FROM PAPER PREPARED ON GEN. CONF. THAT AMBASSADOR (MASSUH) RECOMMENDED ARGENTINE ABSTENTION ON THIS MATTER, CONSISTENT WITH 18TH GC POSITION AND ITS POSITION ON ISRAELI ISSUES IN OTHER FORA. NONETHELESS, HE WENT ON TO ASSURE US THAT ARGENTINA WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF EXECUTIVE BOARD'S PROPOSAL, LARGELY DUE TO WISH TO AVOID IRRITATING "EXCITED ELEMENTS" AT CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS SHARING OUR REASONING RE DESIRE DEPOLITICIZE UNESCO. HIS PRINCIPAL WORRY WAS THAT SOMEONE WOULD RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA, THOUGH, SO FAR HE KNEW IT HAD ONLY BEEN PROPOSED IN CONNECTION WITH URUGUAY, BRAZIL, AND CHILE.

5. FIGUERERO INDICATED HE SAW NO PROBLEMS WITH REGIONAL GROUPING FOR GRENADA WHICH WOULD GO WITH LATAM, OR SAN MARINO, WITH EUROPE.

6. FIGUERERO DID NOT RAISE OTHER UNESCO MATTERS WITH US, BUT THE POSSIBILITY FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WAS LEFT OPEN ON BOTH SIDES.
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